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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
RESP. NO. 197 J
REVIEWED BY
DATE 14 MAY 1974

FROM : Amembassy, ACCRA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. September 30, 1958

REF : AF

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	REC'D 10-6-58	INFO OTHER RMIR-2 REP-1 COM-10 TR-3 FRB-2 IN-1 C/A-10

SUBJECT: Visit to Ghana of Edgar F. Kaiser and Chad Calhoun of Kaiser Industries Corporation in Connection with Current Volta River Survey

Edgar F. KAISER and Chad F. CALHOUN, President and Vice President respectively of the Kaiser Industries Corporation, visited Ghana September 22-26 to participate in high level discussions concerning the proposed Volta River hydroelectric power-aluminum project, with particular reference to the survey now being conducted into certain aspects of the project by seven engineers from the Kaiser Industries Corporation. The program followed by Messrs. Kaiser and Calhoun, which was coordinated by the Ghana Development Commission, is enclosed. It should be noted for the record that Minister of Trade BOTSIO was in the hospital with malaria during the visit, and he was replaced by Minister of Information BAAKO as host for the dinner on September 24.

The visit was highly successful from many points of view. Mr. Kaiser benefitted from an opportunity to resume with top Ghana officials the discussions which had been initiated under rather hectic conditions during the Prime Minister's official visit to the United States in July. He was able to get a first hand look, either from the air or on the ground, at the terrain where the various parts of the project are expected to be constructed. He was even able to devote a few hours to clearing up a problem affecting the enfranchisement of the local distributor of the Willys Overland Corporation, a Kaiser subsidiary.

The Ghana Government, for its part, received a clearer impression of the interest of the Kaiser group in the project as a whole. First hand arrangements were made for an expansion in the terms of reference of the engineering survey. (Details were reported telegraphically by USOM/Ghana.) Advantage was taken of Mr. Kaiser's declared interest in other industrial investment in Ghana to discuss in general terms the possibility of a cement plant. Mr. Kaiser's intelligence, tact, depth of knowledge, energy, incisiveness and optimism concerning the future world market for aluminum all made a deep impression on the Ghana officials with whom he came in contact.

The seven Kaiser engineers engaged in the survey are expected to complete their work in Ghana about the middle of October.

Correction made by RMIR

JQBlodgett:jk
REPORTER

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From Amembassy, Accra

Press coverage of the Kaiser visit and the survey has thus far been factual and based upon Ghana Government releases. No editorial comment of substance has yet appeared.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:

John Q. Blodgett
Second Secretary of Embassy

cc: Amcongen, LAGOS

APPROVED:
Peter Rutter
Peter Rutter
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

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